

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

March 4 2008 TORNADOES

SITUATION REPORT # 6

11 March 2008, 1400 Hours

New information is in BOLD ITALICS.

SUMMARY

In the early evening hours of March 4 a cold front moving across the Commonwealth generated storm activity. These storms produced rain, wind and reported tornadoes. National Weather Service Morristown confirmed that an EF1 Tornado did touch down in Big Stone Gap, Wise County Virginia. Preliminary damage reports have been received from several jurisdictions and state agencies. No injuries or deaths have been reported.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with augmented staffing.

State of Emergency: Governor Kaine declared a State of Emergency at 1119 hours 5 March 2008.

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared by:
Wise County at 1800 hours 4 March 2008
Town of Big Stone Gap at 1700 hours 4 March 2008
Essex County at 0800 hours 5 March 2008

WEATHER

Forecast: Tuesday 11 March: Mostly sunny; high temperatures mid to upper 50's; winds 5-10 Mph. Tuesday night: partly cloudy; temperatures in the low to upper 30's; winds variable 10-14 Mph; Wednesday 12 March: Mostly sunny; temperatures from the upper 50's to low 60's; winds variable 10-15 Mph with gusts to 25 Mph; Wednesday night: Partly cloudy; low temperatures from the mid to upper 30's; winds light and variable 5 to 10 Mph.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
VEOC conducted conference call with Wise County and Town of Big Stone Gap officials on 10 March to facilitate situational awareness. Event created in WebEOC “2008-03 Tornadoes 03-04-08”. VDEM and localities posting event related information and resource requests in WebEOC. VDEM is monitoring recovery operations.

Local Liaison: ***VDEM Region 4 Coordinator returned to the Town of Big Stone Gap on 11 March to assist local officials in recovery efforts and enhance situational awareness.***

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Agency responded to request for signage from Wise County. VDOT is providing 2 front end loaders, transportation, chainsaws and safety equipment to support Department of Correction personnel in debris removal in Big Stone Gap.

ESF 12 – Energy: Power has been restored to affected areas.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
3 requests for assistance were cancelled. **3 requests have been completed.** 5 requests are currently in progress.

Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)
Providing 2 – 10 inmate work crews to assist in debris removal in the Town of Big Stone Gap.

PLANNING SECTION

Situation Unit: Preparing daily Situation Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness. ***Next Situation Report will be issued Tuesday, 12 March 2008 at 1400 hours.***

GIS/Mapping Unit: Providing maps and graphics as requested to support recovery operations and situational awareness.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Wise County: Reports 6 houses destroyed, 15 with major damage, 25 with moderate or lesser damage. EOC is open and local emergency declared. Red Cross located at the Mountain Empire Older Citizen facility is providing feeding and other services to citizens. Regional Assistance Development Authority contacted the Wise County EOC to request an area to set up for assisting the noninsured and renters who suffered loss from the tornado. Wise County EOC is attempting to confirm resource requests with BSG Town Manager. IDA teams reassembled this morning and will be in field all day. Wise EOC has been in contact with VDEM PA personnel. Local Social Services contacted to begin setting up meetings to assist residents in need. The Town of Big Stone Gap may require additional law enforcement personnel to help provide security in the affected areas.

Essex County: 9 residences were damaged, 7 moderate, 1 major and 1 most likely destroyed. Essex Vol. Fire Dept. had roof damage of \$30,000 and Essex High School had \$50,000 damage to roof and bleachers. Two businesses, South Tech (\$10,000) and Tappahannock Vet Hospital (\$10,000) sustained damage.

Westmoreland County: Sustained damages in the Nomini Grove, Hauge and Coles Point areas. Trees are down across the county. Reports 3 agricultural barns destroyed, 2 agricultural barns with damage and 1 fire station damaged but still operational.

Goochland County An unconfirmed tornado touched down in the Hadensville area affecting 5 addresses with minor to moderate damage. No residences were affected. Damage was limited to outbuildings, carports and trees. Two businesses were damaged. Total damage estimates are less than \$100,000.

Louisa County Damage to 4 structures was reported with one destroyed. Damage assessment is being conducted. No State resources have been requested.

Prepared by: Terry Hebert, VERT Deputy Plans Chief
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Harry Colestock, VERT Coordinator